

SENATOR ABBODD: And when you talk about the most basic principle that's been bantered around here when it gets into education is classroom size and the classroom sizes that we're offering in the Westside area, in the Ralston area aren't that much different than these other school systems in the metro area. The classroom size is virtually the same. And they all strive to work to keep that classroom, the ratio of teacher to student, as low as possible because we find that when you have that lower ratio you get a better quality student, you get more individualized instructions versus the old days when Senator Hartnett was teaching and they had 40-47 kids in a classroom, you found that the quality of the education was not as good. I don't think we should penalize these school systems that strive to be the best. We should not penalize them, and that's what this bill provides--a penalization of quality schools that have shown to do an outstanding...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR ABBODD: ..job of educating our students. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Schimek announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature: Pat and John Schimek from North Platte and Jusie Sedelmeier from Lincoln are here under the south balcony. Senator Kristensen announces that there are 11 college students here from UNK Social Work Program in Kearney, Nebraska, and their teacher. They are in the north balcony. And Senator Lindsay announces that there are six fifth, eighth, tenth and eleventh graders from Catholic Home School in Omaha and their sponsor. They are all in the north balcony as well. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Madam President, members of the body, this has been one of the most difficult issues that I have ever dealt with and I, frankly, feel schizophrenic because I support equalization but I also support quality, and actually I think that that's fairly representative of the district that...that I largely represent, which is District 66, because District 66 also supports equalization and supports quality. And District 66 supported 1059, supported the idea of equalization because they believe that all children should receive a quality education. But I think part of the reason that the voters...and